



Corrections Officer Training Academy

5601 W. Trails Road, Tucson, AZ 85745

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Thank you for that introduction, Chuck.

This gives me an opportunity to acknowledge the great job you are doing as Director of the Department of Corrections.

I know that job is not an easy one -- under ANY circumstances -- but your public service to the state during these difficult times has been outstanding, and I did not want to miss this opportunity to recognize that dedication in public.

So, on behalf of the people of Arizona, thank you, Chuck.

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen and thank you for inviting me here today -- to join you -- as you bring to life my call to state agencies to streamline government operations.

Today, I stand with the leadership of the Arizona Department of Corrections, one of our largest state agencies, with a budget of nine hundred and ninety two million dollars and over ten thousand dedicated employees.

-- These are employees who contribute every day to safer communities through responsible, professional and effective corrections.

-- These are employees who serve and protect the people of Arizona:

By securely incarcerating over forty thousand convicted felons ...

By providing structured programming designed to support inmate accountability and successful community re-integration ...

And by providing effective supervision for over six thousand offenders who have been conditionally released from prison.

These are employees committed not only to public safety but also to "Efficiency, Affordability, and Transparency" in the service of the people of Arizona.

This planning session honors these employees and is a testament to the principles set forth by my Commission on Privatization and Efficiency, which I established by Executive Order in January of this year.

This planning session is the gathering of agency leadership, one hundred and thirty five wardens, deputy wardens, administrators, managers, and subject-matter-experts, recognizing the good work the agency has already done and exploring ways to achieve even greater operational efficiency in meeting the needs of Arizona citizens.

For these three days, ADC leadership will be exploring current practices and making fiscally sound, data-driven decisions about Corrections that protect public safety, hold offenders accountable, and control Corrections costs.

ADC leadership will be building upon the great foundation you have already laid and envisioning a future where you can proudly say that you have given the citizens of Arizona the most effective Department of Corrections that their tax dollars can buy.

And, I must say, the foundation you have laid is truly remarkable.

With over five hundred active contracts, you have already privatized many functions or been involved with public/private partnerships.

Inmate Food Services. Private prisons.

Arizona Correctional Industries.

You've been working with Arizona Community Colleges to provide inmates vocational training. You've contracted for inmate phone service for commissary services.

You've pursued statewide efficiencies designed to help ADC, and to allow other state agencies and political subdivisions to realize operational efficiencies and cost savings.

Most notably, I applaud the work you are doing to expand the use of ADC's inmate labor pool, through Inmate Labor IGAs with city, county, and state agencies.

And, let me highlight the Correctional Officer Training Academy itself.

This is a premier training academy for Arizona's Correctional Officers.

It is also a vital resource at the local, state and national level for law enforcement and the private community.

And the efficiencies don't stop there, since February of 2009, there have been great cost-cutting strides made by ADC, including:

-- Restructuring training while maintaining all Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board certification requirements

- Reducing Private Prison per diem
- Transferring Criminal Aliens to ICE
- Negotiating reductions in current contracts;
- Reducing inmate wages while increasing inmate utility charges and health care co-pays;

Downsizing the ADC Central Office;

- Reducing food service delivery costs
- Not to mention the innovative and thoughtful things done everyday by employees at the prisons and Central Office to reduce costs, increase productivity and efficiencies.

See? I told you Chuck Ryan was good.

I know you will continue reviewing your services, programs, and functions, purge unnecessary expenditures and seek solutions that will maintain public safety while reducing the size and cost of state government.

And let us never forget that what we do, we do for the people of Arizona today and for the people of Arizona tomorrow.

Let us never forget that we are servant leaders, dedicated to public safety and to responsible government.

And, while I am talking about dedication and public service, there is no better time to pay special tribute to the ADC staff who work in Parole and Community Supervision.

Since 1841, the practice of probation and parole has played a vital role in our justice system. These professionals are a critical part of the public safety system.

That is why I proclaimed July 18, 2010, through July 24, 2010 as "Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week" to honor these professionals for the important record of public services faithfully rendered and to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The Department's one hundred and five Community Corrections professionals occupy a vital role, showing care for victims of crime, while at the same time holding offenders accountable. They supervise more than six thousands offenders in communities across the state, with 11 offices located from Tucson to Yuma to Flagstaff.

Arizona's Community Corrections professionals are a Force for Positive Change by assisting adult offenders to become productive members of society. One day, they may

play the part of a counselor, the next they are enforcing the rules of an offender's supervision.

They are problem-solvers, crime prevention specialists, motivators, educators, facilitators and oftentimes they are the only support system an offender may have. The proclamation that I have signed honoring these Community Corrections professionals of the Arizona Department of Corrections says in part:

"The state of Arizona is pleased to pay tribute to this group of men and women who maintain the highest standards and idealism of professionalism while continuing to make a positive difference. These men and women face tremendous challenges working in a dangerous profession that rarely yields any thanks for the risks that are taken."

Well, today, we all say thank you.

Please join me in applauding their efforts, not just this day, but every day of the year for the tremendous work they do for our State.

We stand together on the same path, setting forth on the same journey to serve and protect the people of the great State of Arizona.

God bless you and your families, God bless the men and women of the Department of Corrections, and may God bless the great state of Arizona. Thank you.